NORTH PLATTE-WHITE-YAMPA RIVER WATERSHED
Ranking Criteria FY-03
WATER **12/9/02**

Minimum Score of 35 necessary to be eligible

SECTION I: DELIVERY

Improve stream water quality by installing a permanent in-stream diversion structure designed to eliminate annual heavy equipment disturbance of the stream channel. (20 points) _____points
Improve the control of diverted water with the installation of a positive shut off gate at the water source. (10 points) _____points
3. Control irrigation delivery ditch gully erosion with the installation of pipe, structures or new ditch grade. (10 points) _____points
4. Improve the management of diverted water with the installation of a measuring devise at the water source. (5 points) _____points
5. Eliminate irrigation delivery ditch seepage with the installation of one of the following: Points/feet of ditch treated, **maximum of 20 points** Install irrigation ditch lining with soil amendments i.e. bentonite. 5 points **Install fabric lined ditch 10 points** Install concrete lined ditch 15 point Install irrigation pipeline 20 points _____points
Construct irrigation regulating reservoir (< 10 acre feet) to regulate adequate delivery of water to irrigated fields. (5 points) _____points

SECTION II: ON-FIELD

Install structures for water control to regulate irrigation water delivered to the field. (Not risers on pipeline) (10 points)

_____**points**

Improve the management of diverted water with the installation of a measuring devise at the field. (5 points)

_____**points**

Install structures for water control to better distribute water within the field i.e. check
structures, turn out slide gates, division boxes, etc. (5 points/structure-maximum of 20 points)

_____**points**

Improve irrigation efficiency, reduce deep percolation, and irrigation induced erosion by converting: (Select only one)

In field dirt delivery ditch to pipe or lined delivery to open flood system. (5 points)
Dirt ditch to lined ditch with siphon tubes (7 points)
Dirt ditch (wild flooding) to gated pipe (10 points)
Gated Pipe to Sprinkler or Drip System (10 points)
Flood to Sprinkler or Drip System
Flood to Guns or Side-roll (20 points)
Flood to pivet or drip (25 points)
Dirt ditch to pipe to gated pipe (20 points)
Poor contour ditch system to improved contour ditch system (3 points)

_____points

Reduce deep percolation, and irrigation erosion caused by irrigation tail-water by: (5 points max)
Install tail-water ditch on non-erosive grade. (5 points)
Install erosion control structures i.e. concrete or pipe drops (5 points)

_____points

TOTAL POINTS _____

Tie Breaker: Cost/acre treated (Acres that will realize resource improvement due to application of practices). (Lowest cost per acre treated receives highest priority)

Cost per Acre Treated_____

NORTH PLATTE-WHITE-YAMPA RIVER WATERSHED
Ranking Criteria FY-03 EQIP
FORAGE

12/9/02

Minimum score of 25 needed to be eligible

Improve grazing land health, by increasing plant diversity through the application of one or more of the following conservation practices: (5 points per practice type) (max 15 points) Brush management to improve plant diversity Re-establishment of native plant species forbs, grasses and shrubs on rangeland. Establishment of introduced plant species on pasture and hayland that will be managed separately from native plant communities. _____ points
2) Converting cropland to permanent perennial cover. (25 points) HEL fields (10 additional points) _____ points
3) Improve grazing distribution of animals with the installation of permanent water sources with spacing based on terrain and travel distance to draw animals away from heavy use areas. (20 points) _____points
Facilitate uniform grazing and allow for planned grazing and rest periods to allow for plant growth and reproduction. (choose only 1) Attain minimum forage improvement (10 points) Attain moderate forage improvement (15 points) Attain high forage improvement (20 points) Attain exceptional forage improvement (25 points) _____ points

Improve deteriorated riparian areas by installing one or more of the following conservation
practices. (5 points per practice type) (max 15 points)

Fence riparian areas to facilitate proper management, can include water gaps, does not imply exclusion is necessary.
Establish adapted grasses, forbs and woody species to protect eroded stream banks and adjacent areas.
Install adapted structural erosion control practices to stop stream bank and channel erosion.

_____points

TOTAL POINTS_____

Tie Breaker : Cost/acre treated (Acres that will realize resource improvement due to application of practices) (Lowest cost per acre treated receives highest priority)

Cost per Acre Treated _____

North Platte, Yampa, White River Watershed
Wildlife Habitat
EQIP Ranking Criteria FY 2003

Projects must have wildlife habitat improvement as the primary intent for use of funds, and fully described habitat management practices in the conservation plan.

The proposed contract is located within a priority wildlife area and addresses the target species and habitat. See attached map or descriptions (mule deer, and riparian areas) for locations of wildlife areas.

Within a wildlife area 10
Outside wildlife areas 0 _____

The proposed practice(s) are intended to maintain, enhance, or restore which habitat types?
Pick one habitat type only for a maximum of 15 points. Habitat type selected must correspond to habitat used by species selected in #3

Sagebrush-steppe, riparian, mountain shrub, cold-water stream, wetland
15
Pasture & hayland or warm-water stream
7
Pinion-Juniper, deciduous/coniferous woodland, cropland, other 1

_____

Project applies practice(s) for: (You should pick the one highest category or species if a species fits
in more than one category or if you have more than one species on this item).

A State species of special concern, a state threatened species, a Federal candidate
species, or a declining species. Bold **D** designates sensitive species for answering question #7.

Includes: Colombian sharp-tailed grouse **D** 10 points
greater sage grouse **D**
burrowing owl,
Colorado River cutthroat trout
greater sandhill crane **D**
long-billed curlew **D**
kit fox **D**
mule deer **D**
boreal toad
OR
A state endangered or a Federal threatened or endangered species

Includes: black footed ferret **D** 7 points
Colorado pikeminnow
humpback chub
razorback sucker
bonytail chub
bald eagle **D**
fish- native Colorado River species
OR
Declining native species, or economically important species

Includes: grassland birds **D** 5 points
Pheasant **D**
bighorn sheep (desert and Rocky Mountain) **D**
pronghorn **D**
elk **D**
trout, and mountain white fish (stream habitat only)
turkey **D**

Species with stable or increasing populations, or not otherwise listed 2 points

_____

Practices planned address limiting factors for target species. Species specific practices found in
Biology Technical Notes # 10-20 are worth 10 points. If the project is applying practices not listed in
the Biology Tech Notes, the local Work Group may assign a point value in concurrence with the
NRCS Area Biologist or other designated Area representative. Maximum of 10 points.

_____

5) Will the planned practices alleviate or increase an identified game damage problem?

Alleviate damage = 5 pts
No effect = 0 pts
Increase damage = -minus 5 pts

_____

Two points for each partner contributing dollars towards the participants cost. Pheasants Forever,
Ducks Unlimited, etc. Landowners and NRCS do not count as a partners. No more than 6 points
(3 different partners) for this factor.

_____

Proximity to occupied dwelling or other high disturbance area such as a busy highway etc., measured
from dwelling to center of area treated. For disturbance sensitive species designated with a bold **D** in question #3. Non-sensitive species receive 10 points.

> ¼ mile = 10
1/8 – ¼ mile = 5
< 1/8 mile = 0

Will project have significant positive impacts on water quality? (i.e. shallow water wetland, riparian buffer, buffers adjacent to perennial water etc.)
Yes = 5
No = 0

_____

Do planned practices encourage the establishment or maintenance of native vegetation?

Yes = 5 pts

No = 0 pts

_____

Total points (Maximum of 76 points possible) _____

Tie Breaker

Cost share dollars per acre treated (acres actually physically changed) (Lowest cost per acre treated receives highest priority)

Cost Per Acre Treated _____

Priority Wildlife Areas

Mule Deer Wildlife Area

The mule deer wildlife area covers all land west or south of a line running from Interstate 25 at the Wyoming border, south to U.S. Highway 50, east to U.S. Highway 287/385 and south to the New Mexico border.

Riparian Habitat Areas

Riparian areas within designated critical habitats (as per USFWS designation) in the Colorado, Rio Grande, and San Juan Basins for fish. Contact Area or State Biologist if unsure of critical habitat locations.

Greater sage grouse

See attached map.

Columbia sharp-tailed grouse

See attached map.

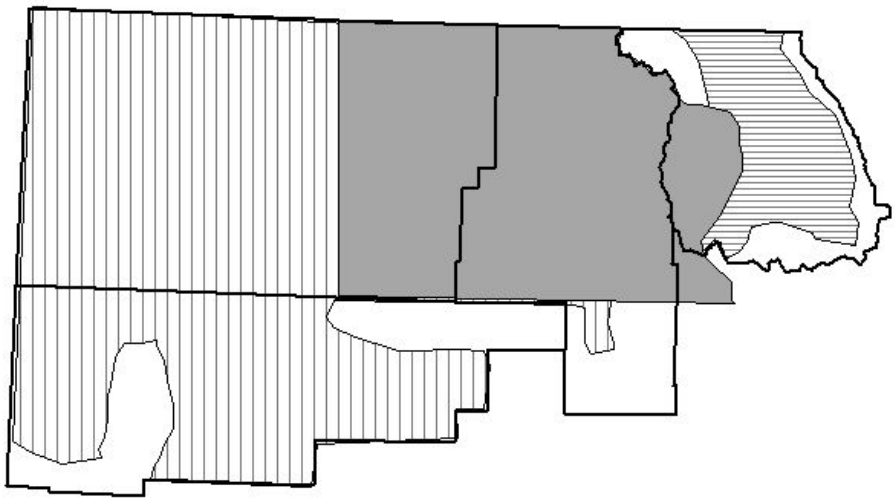
Greater sandhill crane

See attached map

North Platte-White-Yampa Wildlife Priority Areas

USDA

Date: 09/30/2002



Legend

- Yampasw.shp
- Sandhill crane & sharptail & sage.shp
- Only sagegrouse.shp
- Sharptail & sage.shp

N

USDA

200000 0 200000 400000 Feet

NORTH PLATTE-WHITE-YAMPA RIVER WATERSHED
EQIP Ranking Criteria FY-03
Non-Point Source Reduction – Riparian Area Improvement
12/9/02
Minimum Score of 40 is needed to be eligible

1) Existing condition using Montana Riparian Assessment Method.

At risk = 25 points
Sustainable = 10 points
Not sustainable = 5 points

_____points

2) For each type of practice planned: 5 points/practice type (max 60 points)

Instream structures, (j-hooks, rock wiers, root wads, etc.)
Bank Sloping
Rip-rapping
Bio-engineering, (facines, willow mats, tree revetments etc.)
Fencing
Alternative water
Water gaps/crossings
Plantings, (sod mats, willow clumps, seeding, pole & stake plantings etc.)
Invasive species control (brush management)
Buffers
Channel reconstruction
Predator control

_____points

3) 100 divided by cost per foot of stream treated (measured at centerline of stream):

_____points

Total Points _____

NORTH PLATTE-WHITE-YAMPA RIVER WATERSHED
Ranking Criteria FY-03 EQIP
Air Quality – Forest Management

1) Forest management plan approved by qualified forester in place: 40 points

_____ points

2) Forest improvement practices applied: (5 points per practice type)

Thinning for woodland improvement
Patch cut for woodland improvement
Cultural pest management
Pruning
Tree planting
Critical Area Seeding
Site preparation for regeneration
Use exclusion
Prescribed burn
Erosion control practices
Forest access roads
Fire breaks
Wind break **_____ points**

3) Plan is part of an area forest management plan (involves adjacent properties) (10 points)

_____ points

4) Includes planting of special value such as energy saving or public safety. (e.g. living snow fence on school bus route). (10 points)

_____ points

Total Points _____

Tie breaker: Cost per acre treated (acres that will realize resource improvement due to applied practices) (Lowest cost per acre treated receives highest priority)

Cost per Acre Treated _____